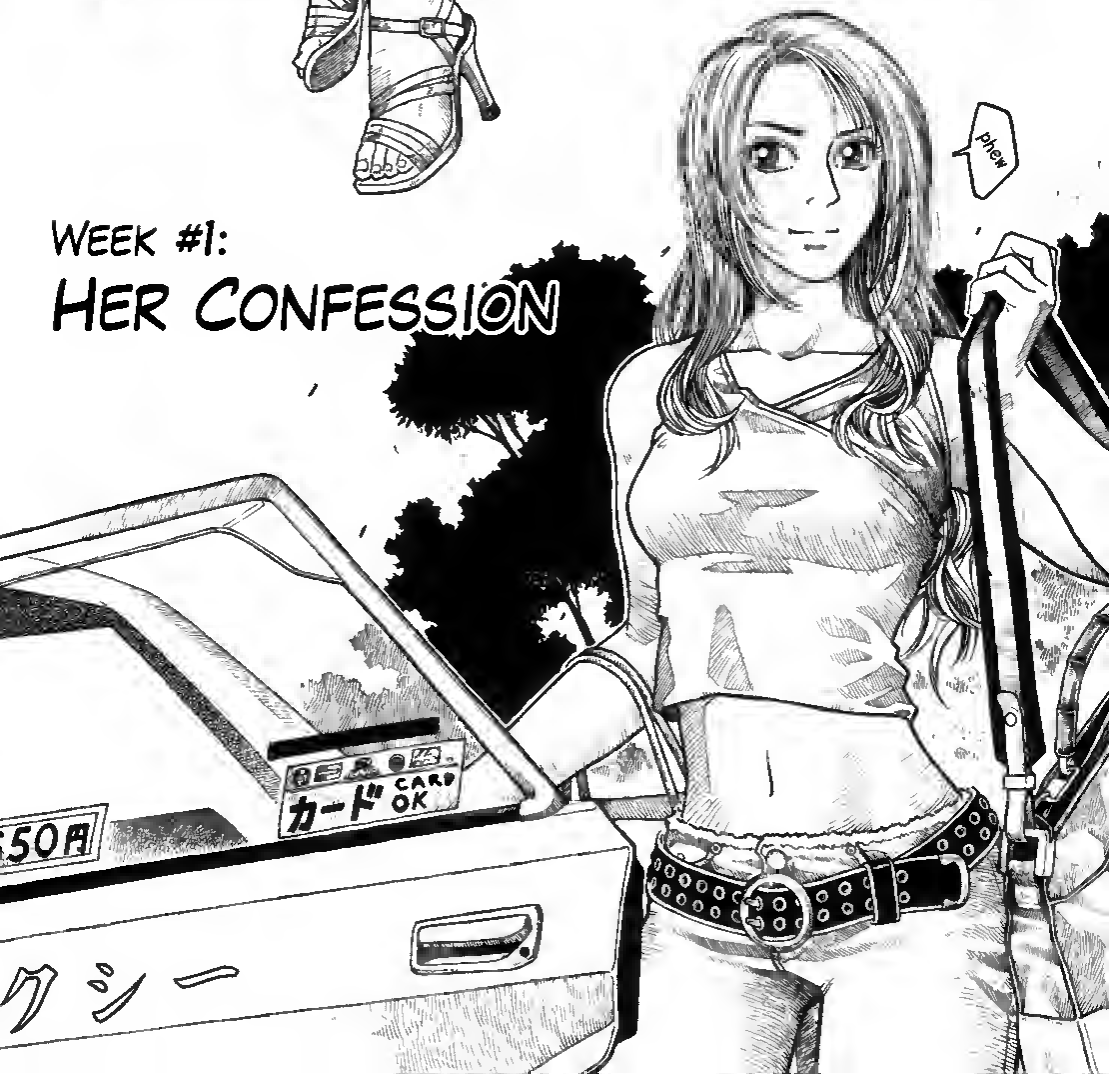
IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE WE LAST SAW THAT KID, HUH.
HOHO. HE'S FINALLY COMING HOME TO SHOW HIS FACE.
I HOPE TOKYO HASN'T CORRUPTED HIM.
YA KNOW, LIKE WITH THOSE CRAZY FASHIONS WE SEE ON THE TV?
カラン
KARAN (clink)
DON'T WORRY, THAT KID IS STRONG AT HEART...
TODAY HIS SISTER IS COMING HOME EARLY TOO, SO I'D BETTER MAKE A LOT OF RICE...

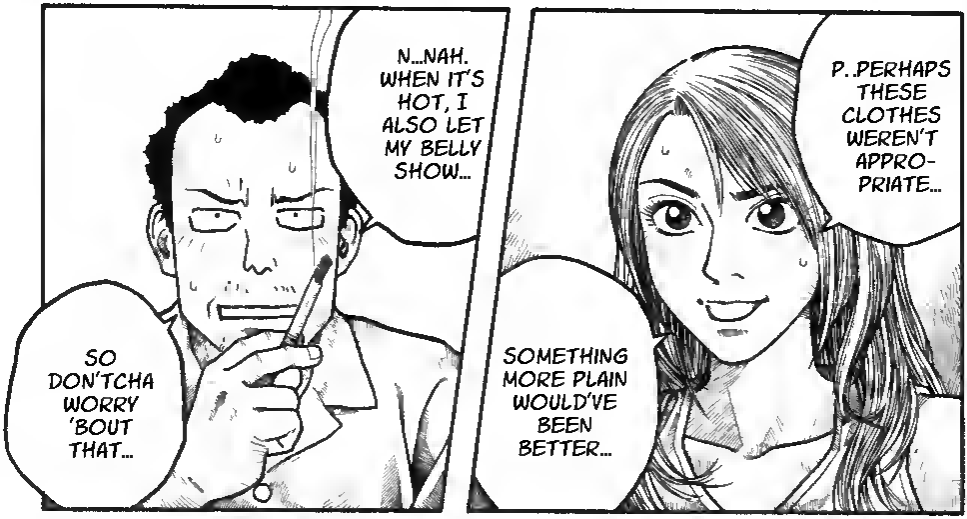
WEEK #1:
HER CONFESSION



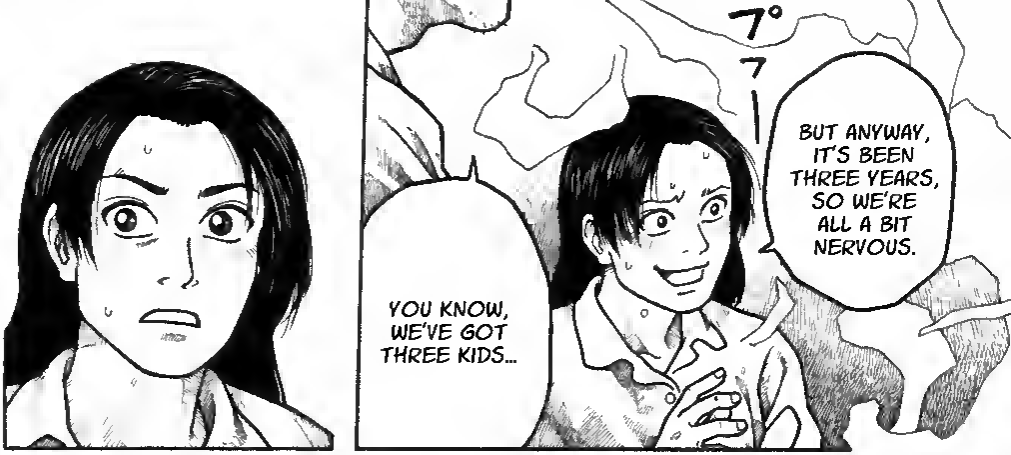
I'M HOME—
DOKA (sitting down)
ドカ"
AHH, I'M WORN OUT.
SHINKANSEN: JAPANESE HIGH-SPEED RAIL
THE SHIN-KANSEN WAS SUPER CROWDED.
I'M REALLY SORRY FOR GETTING HERE SO LATE.

HAVE THE TWO OF YOU...
NOTHING'S CHANGED, HUH.
AHA—
DOKA (steps)
WELL?
BEEN..
ZA (wind)

OH... THANKS.
Y...YOU'RE WELCOME...
UMM...


P..PERHAPS THESE CLOTHES WEREN'T APPRO-PRIATE...
N...NAH. WHEN IT'S HOT, I ALSO LET MY BELLY SHOW...
SOMETHING MORE PLAIN WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER...
SO DON'TCHA WORRY 'BOUT THAT...

IS...IS IT BECAUSE I DYED MY HAIR BROWN? AND IF THE NEIGHBORS SEE IT...
AH...AHHH! NOT AT ALL, IT'S FINE!
WE'VE SEEN THE THINGS THEY DO IN TOKYO ON TV, RIGHT, FATHER...?



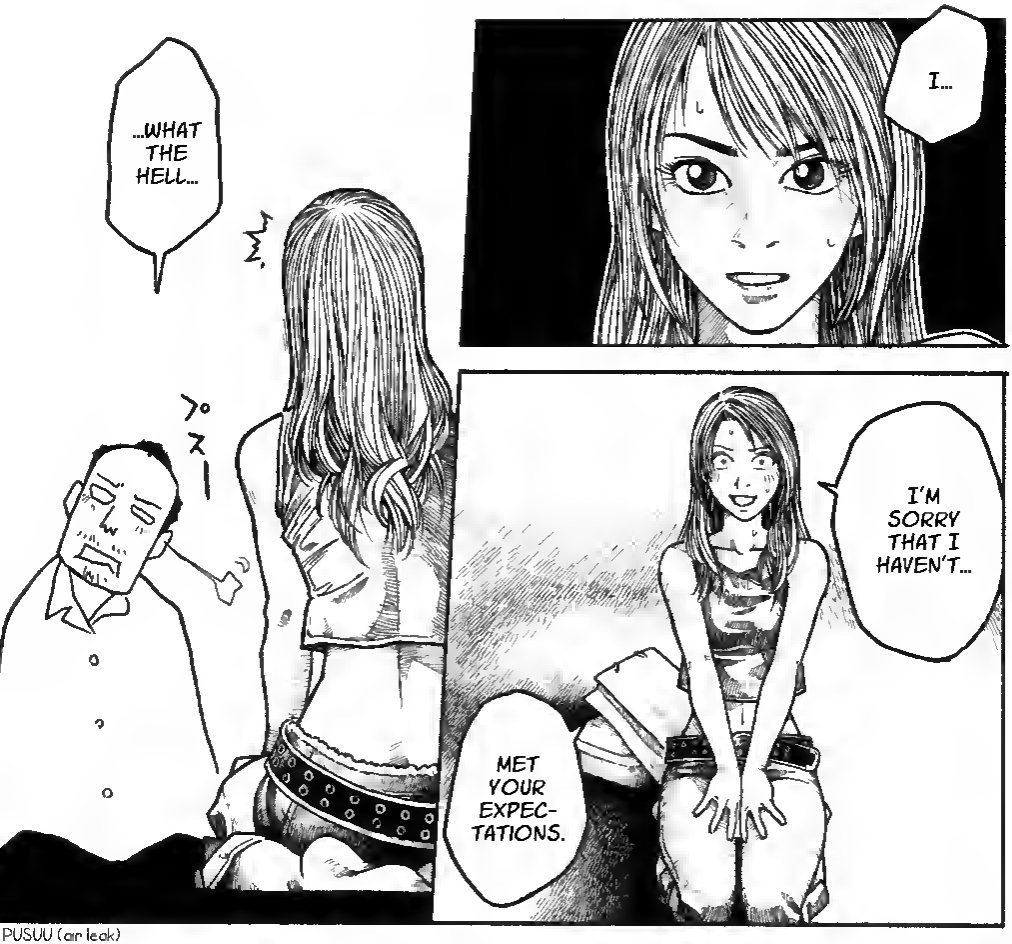
PUFUU (blowing smoke)

OUR SECOND DAUGHTER STILL LIVES IN THIS VILLAGE, AND'LL BE COMING BACK FROM WORK AT SIX.
OUR ELDEST DAUGHTER GOT MARRIED AND NOW LIVES IN KYUSHU.

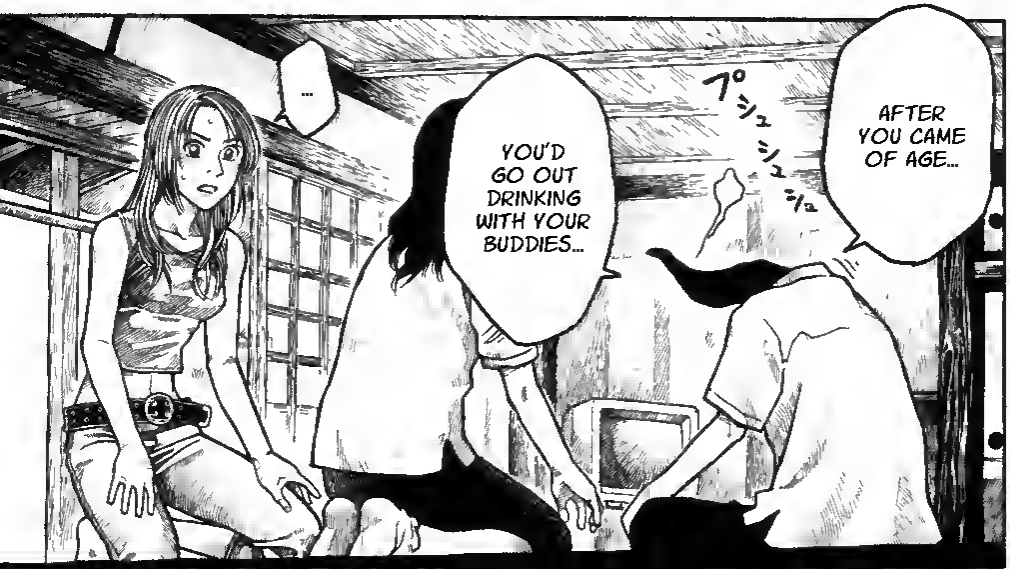
KYUSHU THE SOUTHERNMOST OF JAPAN'S FOUR MAIN ISLANDS

C'MON.
YOU MEAN TATSU-HIKO?
TATSUHIKO AND FRIENDS COMING OF AGE
ビク...
OUR ELDEST SON...
THE LAST KID COMES HOME TODAY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS.

BIKU (shock)



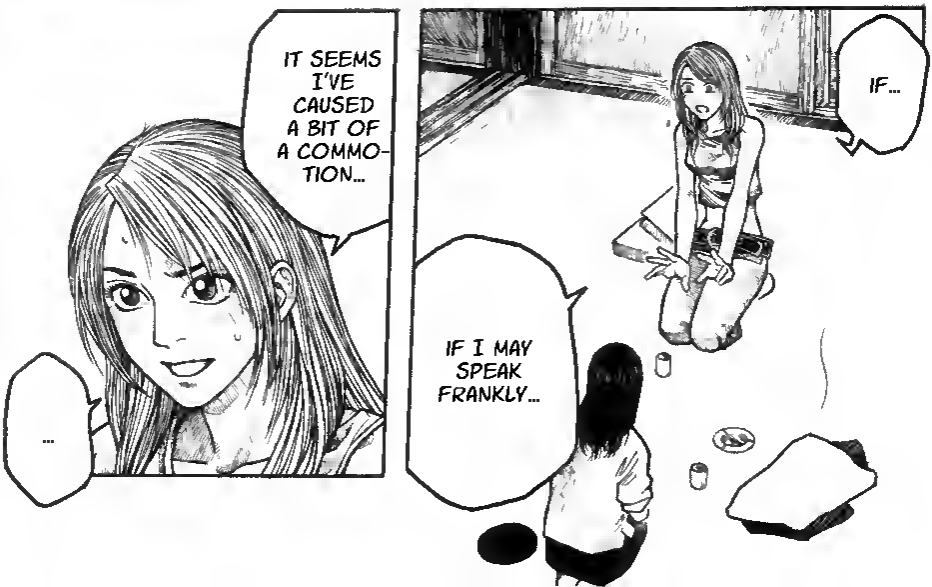
PUSUU (air leak)



PUSHU-SHUSHU (deflation)

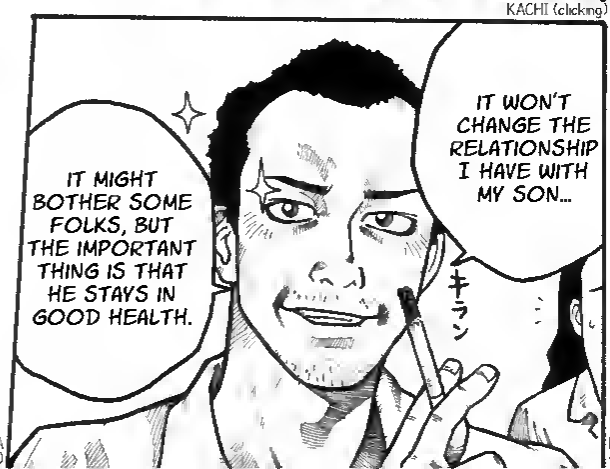
WELL! WELL... THOUGH IN THE PAST I DID SAY TO YOUR FATHER...
SAY...
OUT OF THE THREE, TA-TATSUHIKO HELPED ME THE MOST WITH THE COOKING
"WOULDN'T IT BE NICE IF TATSUHIKO WAS A GIRL," I'D SAY
WELL...
WE NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD COME TRUE, RIGHT?
PUTA ATA (shaking)

RIGHT, FATHER...?
...


IT SEEMS I'VE CAUSED A BIT OF A COMMOTION...
...
IF...
IF I MAY SPEAK FRANKLY...

PAKU (mouth gaping)

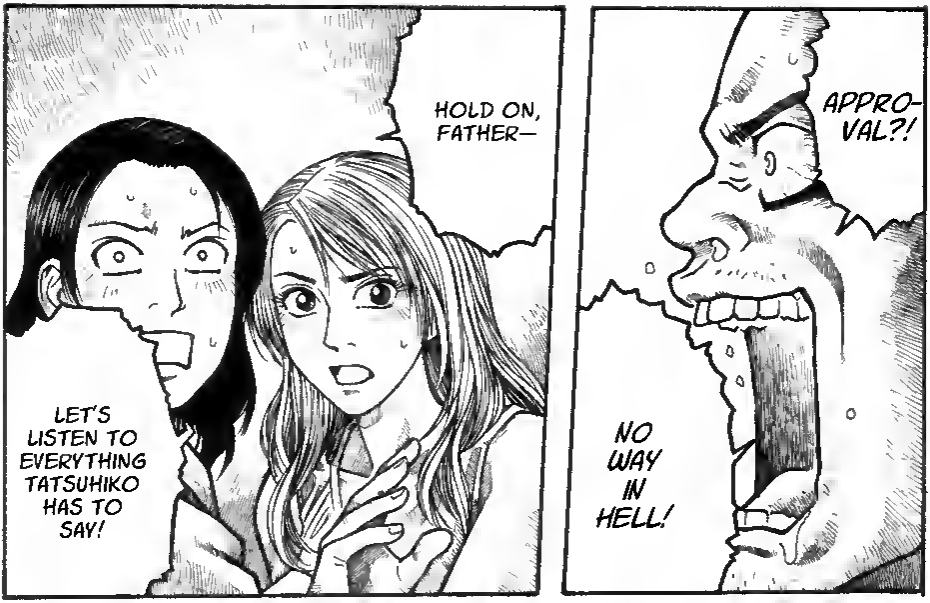
KACHI (clicking)


IT WON'T CHANGE THE RELATIONSHIP I HAVE WITH MY SON...
キラン
IT MIGHT BOTHER SOME FOLKS, BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT HE STAYS IN GOOD HEALTH.

SARA (rustle)

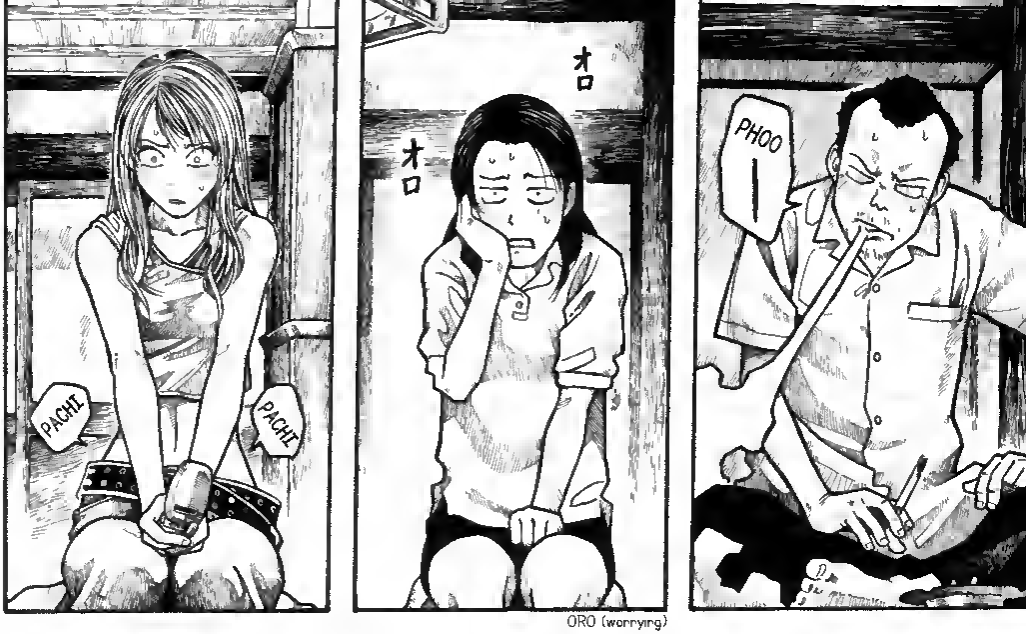
KIRAN (sparkle)

WHAA?

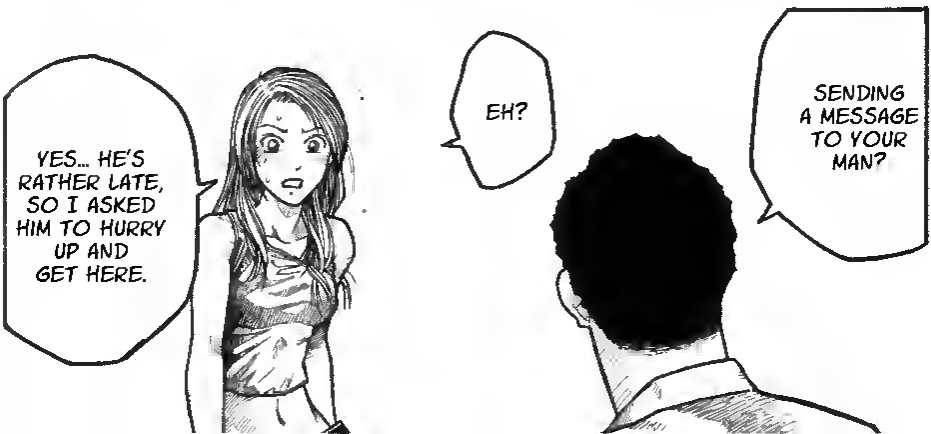

HOLD ON, FATHER—
LET'S LISTEN TO EVERYTHING TATSUHIKO HAS TO SAY!
APPRO-VAL?!
NO WAY IN HELL!

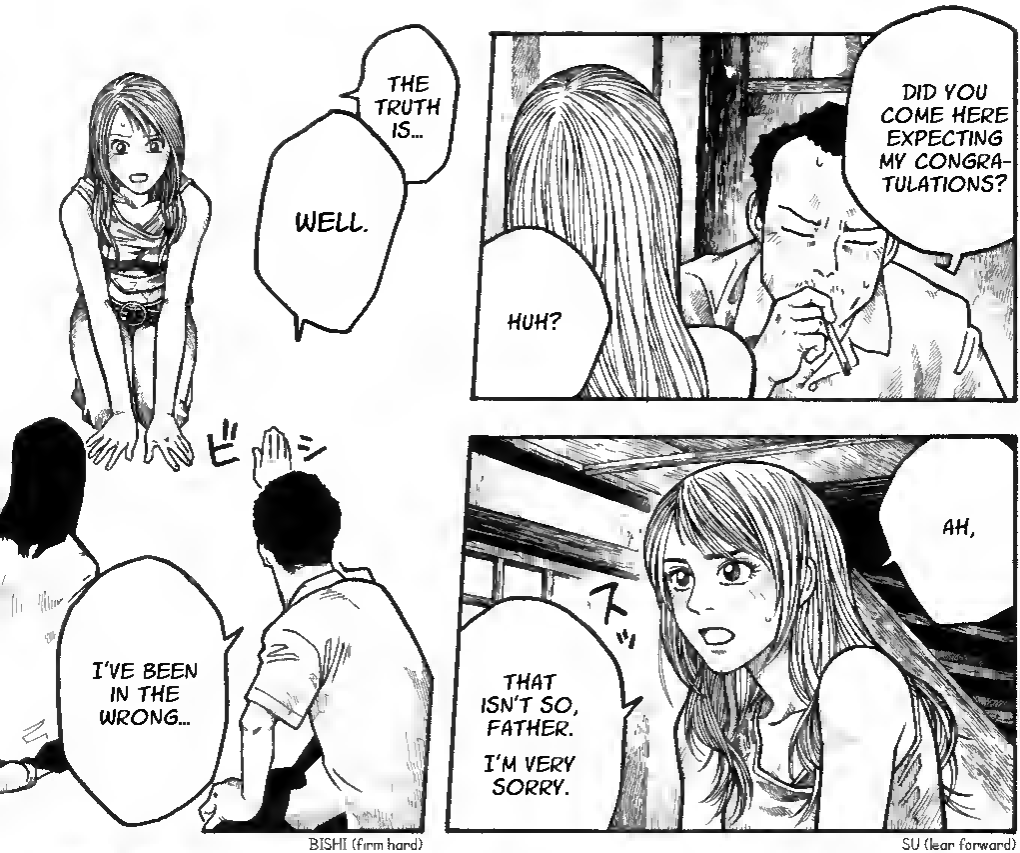
IF YOU'RE ASKING ME—
MARRIAGE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION!

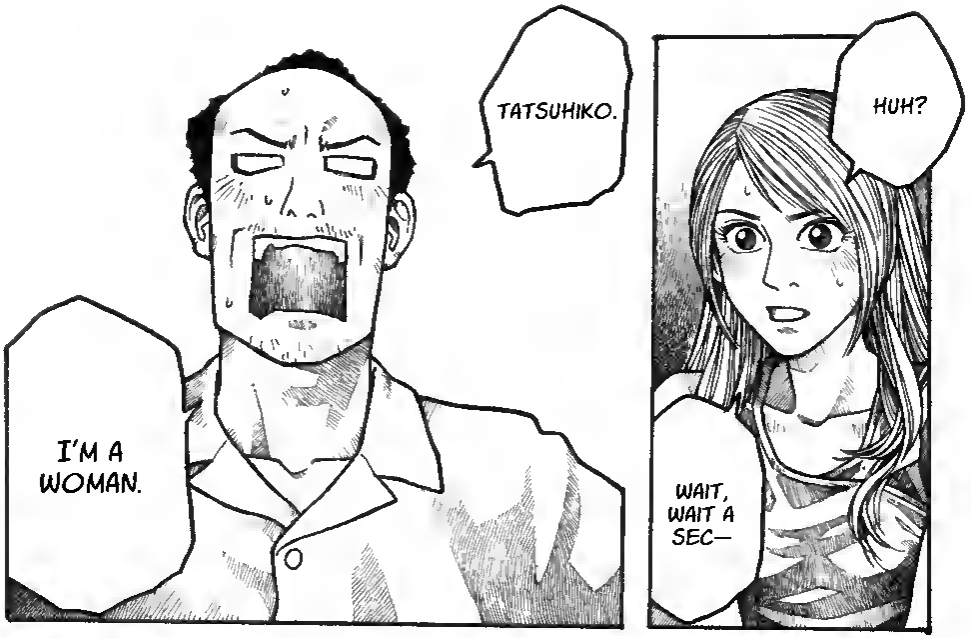
Y...YES, WE WORK AT THE SAME STORE...
PO
HAH!
SO YOUR PARTNER'S A MAN?
EHH?
YOU'RE MISTAKEN, HE TREATS ME LIKE A WOMAN...
HE'S A HOMO!
THAT'S IT!
FATHER, PLEASE, LET'S HEAR TO WHAT TATSUHIKO HAS TO SAYYYY!
NO WAY!
DADDY DOES NOT APPROVE!



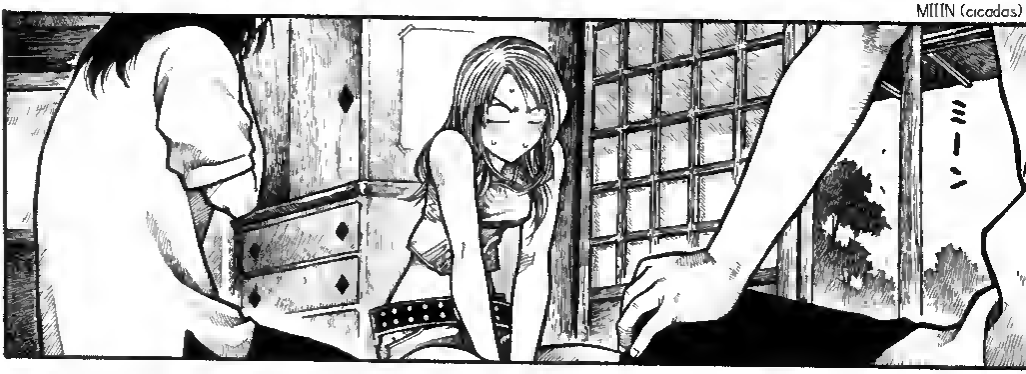
ORO (worrying)




THE TRUTH IS...
WELL.
DID YOU COME HERE EXPECTING MY CONGRATULATIONS?
HUH?
ビシ
I'VE BEEN IN THE WRONG...
トゴ
THAT ISN'T SO, FATHER.
I'M VERY SORRY.
AH,
BISHI (firm hard)
SU (lear forward)
BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED...
OUR BLOODLINE WILL FADE AWAY.
IT'S FINE, MOTHER.
IT'S TIME TO COME OUT WITH IT...
HUH?
I HAD HOPED THAT YOU WOULDN'T FOLLOW IN MY FOOTSTEPS...

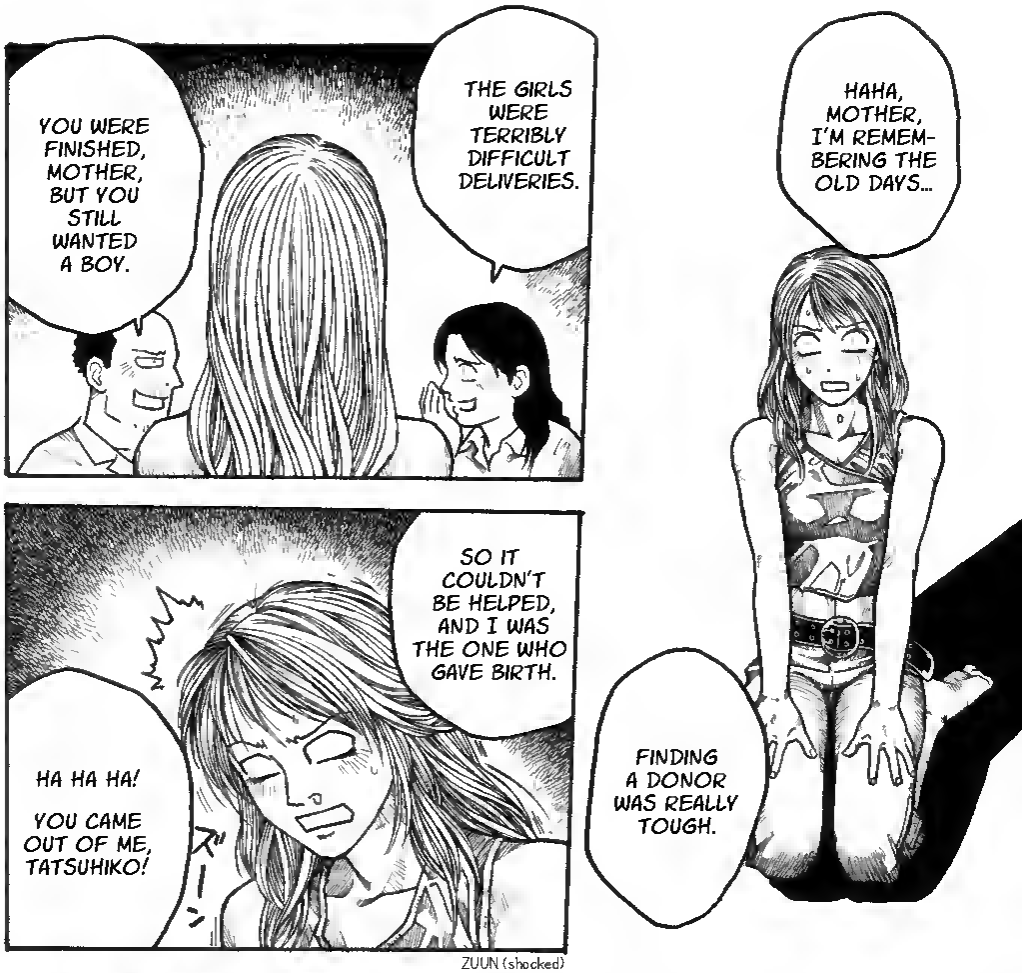


MIIN (cicadas)



THE JAPANESE TERM ONABE GENERALLY REFERS TO A BIOLOGICALLY FEMALE INDIVIDUAL WHO IDENTIFIES AS A MALE.

I FELL IN LOVE WITH ANOTHER WOMAN, AND CAME TO THIS VILLAGE.
THERE WAS FAR MORE PREJUDICE BACK THEN, I GUESS...
ANYWAY! IT IS HOW IT IS.
BEING MEN, YOU TWO AREN'T ABLE TO HAVE CHILDREN...
BUT MAYBE WE CAN FIND OUR HAPPINESS ELSEWHERE.
AS WE OUR-SELVES HAVE BEEN THROUGH THESE GENDER ISSUES, WE CAN'T OPPOSE YOU.
PEKON (bow)
DO AS YOU PLEASE... AND SORRY ABOUT EARLIER.
ペコン
SORRY, TATSUHIKO, FOR NOT TELLING YOU UNTIL NOW.
WE'LL ALSO HAVE TO TELL YOUR SISTERS AT SOME POINT.
HA HA HA! WE'LL BE ALLIES, TATSUHIKO!


YOU WERE FINISHED, MOTHER, BUT YOU STILL WANTED A BOY.
THE GIRLS WERE TERRIBLY DIFFICULT DELIVERIES.
HAHA, MOTHER, I'M REMEMBERING THE OLD DAYS...
FINDING A DONOR WAS REALLY TOUGH.
SO IT COULDN'T BE HELPED, AND I WAS THE ONE WHO GAVE BIRTH.
HA HA HA! YOU CAME OUT OF ME, TATSUHIKO!
ズーン
ZUUN (shocked)
SU (gets up)
BUOHH (car)
MOTHER, BRING THE BEER.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
OH... I HEAR A CAR...
AHA, THAT'LL BE TATSUHIKO'S BOYFRIEND, COMING BY TAXI.

OH, HIROKO!
SORRY I'M LATE!
MOM, DAD!
I'M HOME—
TA-
TATSU-HIKO?!
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU—
THIS IS MY GIRLFRIEND, HIROKO MINAMI.
SUNNY
I HAD TO WORK LATE, SO I ASKED HER TO GO AHEAD OF ME.
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
CALM DOWN, OKAY?
HA HA HA!
SO YOU'VE FOUND OUT ABOUT HER?
DOSA (thunk)

A NEWHALF IS A MALE-TO-FEMALE TRANSVESTITE.

ANYWAY, HIROKO, HAVE YOU ALL GOTTEN TO KNOW EACH OTHER?
IT'D BE GREAT IF YOU ALL GOT ALONG.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I WAS ASKED TO ACT AS A NEWHALF IN A PLAY.
WELL... YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE ME.

WEEK #1 ◒ HER CONFESSION / END